



Office of the City Manager

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 22, 2009
To: Mayor and City Council
Through: Charles McNeely, City Manager
From: Maureen McKissick, Grant and Fund Development Manager
Subject: Update re the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

In lieu of a formal presentation before Council today, here are the highlights regarding the "Stimulus" bill since the previous City Council meeting on April 8, 2009:

1. On April 8, 2009, the Reno Police Department submitted a competitive grant application to the US Department of Justice through the **COPS Hiring Program**. Reno has requested \$2,692,960 for three years for 10 sworn officers. The grant was submitted one week before the deadline, positioning it well for review. The City expects to know the outcome of the application by the end of June.
2. At this time, the program areas that staff is focusing on for competitive grant applications include:
 - **FEMA's Emergency Food and Shelter (EFS)** grants: Staff met with the director and program manager of the local United Way. (United Way will administer the FEMA EFS grants.) The local United Way anticipates receiving ~\$175,000 through the ARRA. Staff will be applying for funds to underwrite expanded emergency overflow operations and meal provisions for the CAC shelters. We plan to submit the applications by the end of May and will know the outcome approximately in July.
 - **Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP)**: HUD will be releasing the guidance for the ARRA-NSP funds on or after May 4, 2009. To date, it appears that the ARRA-NSP program will be identical to the NSP program that was developed last October.

○ **State Energy Program (SEP):** Nevada will be receiving ~\$34 million through the ARRA. The Nevada State Energy Office is required to create a formal SEP outlining the outcomes and goals that Nevada will achieve with the funds. The State Energy Office must submit the SEP to the US Department of Energy by May 12, 2009. Staff has received preliminary information on the content of the SEP, but it is too early to determine exactly what projects the State Energy Office will fund. This is the program that we are looking at for the Nevada Discovery Museum, as well as eligible City projects.

3. Staff is aware that Council is keenly interested in exploring whether FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters program for fire station construction would offer any potential funding for Reno projects. Unfortunately, FEMA has announced that they do not foresee having their guidance for this program ready until "Summer." Staff in the City Manager's Office and the Fire Department is closely tracking the FEMA websites and are in communication with FEMA staff in Washington, D.C. In addition, staff continues to refine potential projects so that when the guidance emerges, the City will be ready to move forward.

In addition to the above, staff is also:

- Creating the required "Energy Strategy" that must be submitted for approval to the US Department of Energy by June 25, 2009 in order for the City to receive the energy block grant funding. Staff plans to submit the Strategy early – by the end of May – in order to expedite the review process.

- Amending the HUD Action Plan to incorporate the ARRA CDBG projects. Staff plans to bring the amended Plan to Council for approval on May 27.

- Completing the myriad online registrations that will be necessary to receive and obligate ARRA funding.

- Updating the www.cityofreno.com/recovery website. Staff is creating a unique code system in Finance for all the ARRA-funded projects and program. With help from IT and Community Relations, we will link the Finance data to the recovery website so that the public has full access to the City's use of ARRA funds. This level of transparency and accountability is consistent with the intent of the ARRA.

- Attending numerous workshops, webinars, and allied agency meetings, e.g. Maureen McKissick attended Senator Reid's Statewide ARRA workshop in Las Vegas on April 16; Rick Vandenburg is meeting on April 23 with representatives from Washoe County and Sparks to determine the potential for ARRA broadband projects; and Jason Geddes meets regularly with representatives from Washoe County, Sparks, the RTC and WCSD to collaborate on public energy projects.